

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038658
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 AF-08 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 PRS-01 PA-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 /084 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:TSHUGART:RC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA/ECP:WBURSON
EB/ORF/TRP:TO'DONNELL
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R 190242Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD,EAGR, BR

SUBJECT:CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICES

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS ON
FEBRUARY 16 BY CONGRESSMEN FRED RICHMOND AND BENJAMIN
ROSENTHAL, CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE WHICH
WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICES FEBRUARY 22-23:

"NEXT WEEK'S COFFEE HEARINGS WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS NO ACTUAL COFFEE SHORTAGE, ONLY
A TEMPORARY DECLINE IN WORLD RESERVES. THERE IS ALSO EVI-
DENCE THAT BRAZIL, THE WORLD'S LARGEST COFFEE EXPORTER,
IS UNDERSTATING ITS PRODUCTION AND THAT COFFEE PRODUCING
NATIONS ARE FOLLOWING A PATTERN OF CONSCIOUS PARALLELISM
BY INCREASING COFFEE EXPORT TAXES AND RAISING PRICES TO
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CONSUMERS. MOREOVER THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT,
TO WHICH THE U.S. IS A PARTY, PROTECTS FOREIGN COFFEE
PRODUCERS BUT PROVIDES LITTLE BENEFITS TO U.S. CONSUMERS."

2. AS THE STATEMENT INDICATES, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AN
INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY CRITICAL OF BRAZIL
IN THE COURSE OF THE HEARINGS. AS WE HAVE INFORMALLY

INDICATED TO THE BRAZILIAN ICO DELEGATION IN LONDON, THE
ADMINISTRATION WILL FIND IT

NECESSARY TO INDICATE ITS OPPOSITION TO BRAZILIAN COFFEE
PURCHASES.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED ON OUTCOME OF
HEARINGS.

HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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